

Wages Increase For 400,000 in 19 Industries

Earnings for Virtually All
Classes of Labor Advance
3.4% From July to Octo-
ber, National Survey Finds

Pay Drops in Four Trades

Workers in Lumber, Rub-
ber, Auto and Printing
Plants Receive Slight Cuts

Early and weekly wage earnings in virtually all classes of labor showed an increase of 3.4 per cent during the period from July to October of this year, according to a national survey of wage changes covering 400,000 wage earners in twenty-three industries just completed by the National Industrial Conference Board.

The survey shows that in only two industries, lumber and rubber, was there a decrease in hourly wages during the period. There was a decline in weekly earnings only in two other industries, automobile manufacturing and book and job printing, but this was reported as slight.

The average hourly earnings of all wage earners covered in this investigation, reads the survey, "were \$2.28 in July, 1922, in August, they had risen to \$2.48, in September to \$2.49, and in October to \$2.49. In September, 1922, therefore, the average hourly earnings of all the wage earners covered were 108 per cent higher than in July, 1914.

The average weekly earnings of all wage earners show a far greater rise than for any other 1914 levels in September, 1922, being 127 per cent above the 1914 figure. Skilled and unskilled classes of labor show practically the same increase in hourly earnings relative to 1914, though from July to September, 1922, the hourly earnings of skilled labor increased slightly more than those of unskilled.

The average weekly earnings of all wage earners, which were \$12.27 in July, 1914, had risen to \$23.09 in July, 1922, to \$23.31 in August and to \$23.58 in September. In the latter month they were 95 per cent above the July, 1914, level. The average weekly earnings of unskilled labor appear to have increased more since 1914 and during July, August and September of 1922, than those of skilled labor. Average weekly earnings of unskilled labor in July, 1922, were 87 per cent above the 1914 level, and in September, 95 per cent above pre-war levels, while those of skilled labor in July, 1922, were 88 per cent above 1914 and in September, 92 per cent above the 1914 level.

Employment in identical plants in the twenty-three industries covered in July, 1922, was 16 per cent above the July, 1914, level. In August, 1922, it was 18 per cent and in September 23 per cent above the pre-war figure, showing the steady improvement in employment conditions during the last summer.

The actual hours worked per week

per wage-earner also increased from 47.7 in July to 48.2 in September, although this figure is still below that for July, 1914. Plant hours and the nominal working week also improved steadily during July, August and September of this year, though these also were still considerably below the pre-war levels.

Harding Lets 8 I.W.W.'s Trade Cells for Exile

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Eight former members of the Industrial Workers of the World, sentenced four years ago to varying terms at Leavenworth penitentiary for conspiracy and violation of war-time legislation, were offered freedom to-day by President Harding on condition that they leave the United States. Sixty days were allowed for the prisoners to arrange their affairs preparatory to deportation, a bond being required during the interval to insure their embarkation for some foreign land.

The commutations announced to-day were as follows: Aurelio Vincenti Anzura, sentenced to twenty years; C. J. Bourq, ten years; Peter Green, ten years; Charles L. Lambert, twenty years; Harry Lloyd, five years; Burt Lorton, ten years; Sam Scarlett, twenty years; Archie Sinclair, ten years.

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Crowell and 6 Indicted in War Frauds

(Continued from page one)

membership on the committee to unlawfully influence other officers of the United States in the plans and policies for carrying out the war time construction program; to attain the cost plus system; to eliminate usual safeguards for the government, and to defeat checking up and supervising the contractors.

The indictments further charge that the alleged conspirators used their positions for their own gain and assisted contractors in evading the true intent of contracts and in collecting large and unjustifiable fees. As a result of the conspiracy, the indictment charged, the United States government lost millions of dollars, the morale of labor was reduced, and the government was deprived of protection during the emergency construction period.

It is further charged that during 1917 and 1918 the alleged conspirators held daily meetings to plan and carry out the details of the alleged conspiracy, and even secured the removal of other officers of the government who hindered the carrying out of the plans.

Specifically those indicted are charged with violation of section 37 of the United States Penal Code, which prescribes a fine of \$10,000 or two years imprisonment, or both; of various other sections of the Revised Statutes; of certain army regulations and sections of the army appropriation bills of 1916 and 1917.

From August 10, 1917, to March 22, 1918, it was said, the defendants "par-

ticipated in the awarding of contracts and the giving of orders for furnishing . . . of work, labor, services, materials, supplies, and other property in some of which contracts and orders some of said defendants had a pecuniary interest and in others of which contracts and orders some of said conspirators had a direct or indirect interest in the pecuniary profits as stockholders of corporations or members of firm."

It was specifically charged that the defendants, acting between Armistice Day, 1918, to July 1, 1919, procured the United States to be obligated for extensive new war and military construction, the exact amount of which is to the grand jurors unknown, but which they charge was in excess of \$30,000,000, of which amount in excess of \$11,000,000 was to contractors selected by said conspirators and given such work under the cost-plus form of contract.

In a formal statement issued to-night by Attorney General Daugherty it was said the indictments spoke for themselves, and the responsibility of future action now rested upon the courts.

"I feel that it would be highly improper for me to comment upon a grand jury action," Mr. Daugherty said.

"It also would be manifestly improper for me to discuss what further similar steps may be taken or are in contemplation by the Department of Justice."

"A construction division of the army

Crowell Enters Denial To War Fraud Charge

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 30.—Categorical denial that there was any conspiracy or collusion in the awarding of war construction contracts which he had any knowledge of or connection with was made by Benedict Crowell, former Assistant Secretary of War, when informed of the return of indictments against himself and six other "dollar-a-year" men.

"It is news to me," Mr. Crowell said, referring to the allegation in the indictment of daily meetings between the alleged conspirators in connection with assignments of contracts.

"There was a great amount of construction work to be awarded during the war," he said, explaining the method of operation. "As Assistant Secretary of War, I had the duty of finally approving these contracts."

"I cannot comment on them. I have always believed, however, that the cost plus plan was the only possible way the camps and cantonments could have been constructed under the circumstances."

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Dec. 30.—James P. Mears, indicted by the special federal grand jury at Wash-

ington investigating the alleged war-time construction conspiracy, severed his connection with the Fred T. Ley Company a year ago, according to Harold A. Ley, president of the company. Mr. Ley said that the Camp Devens project and other work the company did for the government was completed before Mears went to Wash-

ington to serve on the emergency construction committee, and he did not believe that Mr. Mears had anything to do whatsoever with the placing of construction contracts. Mears was not general manager but manager of the New York office of the Ley company and his work was to a large extent in soliciting business.

"I made it an invariable rule to approve the contract when the two bodies, the Council of National Defense and the army construction division, agreed on the firm most capable of handling it."

Clemens W. Lundoff, also of Cleveland, is said to be in Los Angeles, attending a convention of general contractors.

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Two piece, 12 to 18 yrs. 1.75

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Cambric, 2 to 6 yrs. 35c 45c
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